

REMARKS

Claims 21-37, 40, 42, 43, 46, 48 and 50-62 are all the claims that have been examined in the pending application. By this Amendment, Applicants are amending claims 22-26, 28-32, 34, 36, 37, 40, 42, 43, 46, 48, and 50-62 and are adding new claim 63.

Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 22-34, 37, 40, 42-43, 46, 48, 50-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as the invention.

The Examiner has rejected claims 22-34, 37, 40, 42-43, 46, 48, 50-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected.

Further, Applicants submit that with respect to claim 25, line 14, term “and/or” is proper. Applicants simply mean that either the differential pair or the load element pair, or both, may be comprised of transistors each having relatively low threshold value. Applicants’ believe this to be clear from the claim language.

With regard to the transistors with relatively low threshold values, each of the transistors with relatively low threshold values can, but need not, have the same threshold value. The transistors having a threshold higher than that of the transistors with a relatively low threshold value also do not necessarily have the same threshold value, it is only necessary that these values be greater than the threshold values of the transistors with relatively low threshold value.

With regard to claims 50 and 51, the plurality of transistors refers back to any of the transistors of claims 48 and 40.

Thus, in light of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Minamizaki et al. (U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0038655). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 36 recites, in part, “further comprising a switch circuit ... comprising a control terminal for receiving a control signal to be controlled to be on and off.” The Examiner argues that Minamizaki teaches or suggests all of the elements of claim 36. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In FIG. 1, the differential pair (M3, M4) has a low voltage threshold (VT) lower than the high VT of the differential pair (M1, M2) and M7. When input signal IN1, IN2 are higher than the VT of the differential pair (M1, M2) and M7, the differential pair (M1, M2) operates while the other differential pair (M3, M4) does not operate due to turning to “off” of (M5, M6). On the other hand, when the input signals IN1, IN2 are lower than the high VT of the differential pair (M1, M2) and M7, the differential pair (M1, M2) turns OFF, and (M5, M6) ON, and the differential pair of the low VT (M3, M4) operates.

Namely, turning of M7 ON/OFF corresponds to switching of differential pair (M1, M2) and differential pair (M3, M4), however, the turning of M7 ON/OFF does not correspond to the control of operating/stopping of the entire circuit.

In contrast, claim 36 recites activation and deactivation of the entire differential amplifier circuit by a switch circuit, not simply changing the active differential pair. Therefore, claim 36 is patentable over the applied art.

Allowable Subject Matter

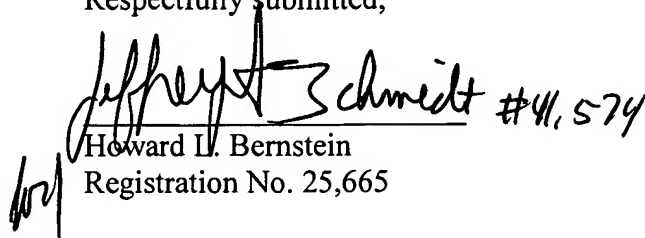
Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 21 and 35 are allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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